



EUROPEAN UNION

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**Statement by the Spokesperson of
EU High Representative Catherine Ashton,
on Western Sahara**

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"High Representative Catherine Ashton welcomes the resumption of informal meetings between Morocco and the Polisario Front under the auspices of Ambassador Christopher Ross, the United Nations' Secretary General's Personal Envoy. She is encouraged that the parties have agreed to meet again later this year.

The EU confirms its support to the UN Secretary General and his Personal Envoy in their efforts to reach a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution.

Catherine Ashton deeply regrets the incidents that took place in the territory of Western Sahara and appeals to all parties to remain calm and restrain from any further violence."

P R E S S

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